

# Environmental Cleanup Continues at the Pasco Sanitary Landfill Site

There is a large landfill in East Pasco called the Pasco Sanitary Landfill. It is on Dietrich Road north of the intersection of Kahlotus Road and U.S. Highway 12.

## What is Happening?

Over the years, waste was disposed at the landfill. These wastes contaminated soil and water under the ground, which is called groundwater. The landfill is closed and no longer receives waste. The Department of Ecology is working with several companies and agencies to clean up the contamination.

Treatment systems are being used in certain areas of the landfill to decrease contamination. These systems are showing positive improvements. The City of Pasco drinking water is not impacted by this contamination.

Ecology believes more cleanup is necessary to protect human health and the environment. A study is in progress to determine the most effective ways to clean up the site. Results of the study will be available for public review. Ecology also will develop a Cleanup Action Plan and make it available for review.

## Landfill Details

The landfill is divided into four main areas that received different types of waste beginning in 1958. These four areas were gradually closed from 1989 until 2001. The landfill no longer receives waste.

One of the four landfill areas is called the Industrial Waste Area. It is divided into five zones: A, B, C, D and E. Much of the current cleanup work taking place at the landfill focuses on reducing soil and groundwater contamination from these five zones and the main solid waste landfill area.

**Zone A** contains an estimated 35,000 55-gallon drums. The drums contain solvent and paint sludges, cleaners, and other industrial waste.

**Zone B** contained nearly 5,000 drums of herbicide-manufacturing waste that was removed in 2002. A temporary cover was placed over this area and a more protective cover will be placed over this zone in 2013.

**Zones C and D** contain approximately three million gallons of plywood resin waste; wood treatment and preservative waste; lime sludge; cutting oils; paint and paint solvent waste; and other bulk liquid waste. These two zones were combined in 2002.

**Zone E** contains approximately 11,000 tons of sludge from paper manufacturing.

## Contaminated Groundwater is Getting Better

There is water in the ground under the landfill. Contamination from the landfill leaked into the ground, then into this water. The contaminated part of the water forms a plume that looks like a long, cigar-shaped pond under the ground. The contaminated plume is more than two miles long. It moves south from the landfill, past "A" Street, toward the Columbia River. The chemicals in this water are related to the materials found in the five zones and solid waste landfill area. Today, treatment systems are helping to decrease the contamination and size of the groundwater plume.

### Is My Drinking Water Safe?

Residents who live near the site get their water from the City of Pasco's municipal water supply system. **Testing shows this water supply is not affected by the Pasco Sanitary Landfill.**

There is a **groundwater protection area** that restricts the use of well water. If you have a well inside the boundaries of the protection area or are concerned about where your drinking water comes from, please contact **Rick Dawson of the Benton Franklin Health District at 509/460-4313.**

### Who do I Call with Questions?

Carol Bergin at Ecology 509/329-3546

**Para asistencia en Español**  
Sr. Greg Bohn 360/454-4174

**ADA accommodations** or documents in an alternate format, call Carol Bergin 509/329-3456 (voice), 711 (relay service), or 877/833-6341(TTY).

**Ecology's Website about the Pasco Landfill Site:**

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1910>

# Groundwater Protection Area

## Groundwater Plume

